

This Learning Resource has been produced by the South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project 2014 – 2018, a public engagement project commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

The people of South Gloucestershire served in the armed forces, became nurses and worked in factories. They made aircraft, motorbikes and boots for the servicemen; even the horses were sent to the front line of The Great War. This project tells the stories of the contribution that South Gloucestershire made to the First World War.

SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE GREAT WAR - Messengers and Mufflers KS 1/2

The children will learn what school children did for the war effort, the skills they learned and the rewards they received.

National Curriculum: History/English

This is the story of the local girls who knitted socks and mufflers (scarfs) for servicemen and the boys that became Wolf Cubs and Scouts. The boys ran messages for the army and worked in the school gardens to produce food for school lunches.

Teachers Information:

This Learning Resource Contains:

- A PowerPoint presentation (Downloadable with these teachers notes on the SGC project website)
- Accompanying Teacher's Information and suggestion notes for each slide
- Activity – Writing letters
- Other First World War Project Learning Resources
- Feedback form
- This resource can also be used with the '**Home Life in The First World War**' learning resource

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School Children in the Great War - Messages and Mufflers

Teacher's Information and suggestion notes for each slide

This learning resource tells the story of the life of the school children in the First World War and the contribution they made to the war effort along with everyone else in their community.

It is intended for Key Stage 1 children upwards.

Here are further background notes for each slide of the accompanying PowerPoint for the storyteller to engage the audience by helping them to look really carefully into the images and expand on the page text.

The Local Village School

This photograph was taken over 100 years ago.

Ask the Children: Have you ever had a class/school photo taken?

Ask the children: If these children were dressed in your clothes would they look any different to you children today?

Ask the children: Does your school do things to raise money for good causes? Maybe, sports or comic relief or a school fete.

Ask the children: Do you join in and do things to help? Doesn't it feel good to all be doing something good together?

This is how these children felt when they worked together for the war effort one hundred years ago.

Boy Scout and Girl

Ask the children: If anyone is a Cub/Scout (Beaver/Brownies/Guides came later) Demonstrate the scout salute. If you don't know it, ask!

Wolf Cubs

Ask the children: Has anyone read Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book'?

(Maybe you can find it in the library afterwards?)

Ask the children: Who is Bagheera?

Scouts and messages

The boys of one hundred years ago would have walked to school on their own every day across fields and along quiet country roads. Therefore; they would know the place really well: who lived where and which farm was where. So the boys would be a great help to the troops, bearing in mind this was a transport division. It was tasked with collecting and transporting hay from the farms to the trains to go out to the front for the horses. This information would be really useful to the troops who were not from this area.

Ask the children: Why do you think the boys would need to run with messages for the soldiers? Answer: there were virtually no telephones.

There were telegrams and other ways of signalling, like using flags called Semaphore.

Hay Making

Look how many women there are working, as the men are off at war.

Transport Division

There were thousands of horses out at the front with the troops in the First World War. They all had to be fed, so the transport division collected hay from local farms here, to send to the front for the horses to eat. The hay must have smelt like home.

Watering the Horses

The soldiers were camping just behind the church in the middle of Chipping Sodbury, this was the nearest place to get water for the horses. Every day the children could watch the horses having a drink in the main high street of their town.

The White Lion

The Yate school children would pass by here on their way to school.

Factory Girls

These girls were making munitions in a local factory. This was very dangerous work.

Girls Knitting.

Ask the children: Look at the one on the far left; she is really pleased with her sock. Now look at the one on the far right, she is not so happy and her sock is much smaller.

Ask the children: How old do you think these girls are: Answer: 7 – 13 years?

Ask the children: Does anyone here knit? Perhaps your mum or gran does? Answer: 100 years ago just about all the women would knit. Making your own clothes was cheaper than bought.

Ask the children: To look carefully, these girls are knitting with four needles round and round so there is no seam to the sock. Could you do that do you think?

Certificates

Read through the text on the certificates. Note the Empire flags and the map of world, all the red bits are part of the old British Empire.

The children may also have been given books as a prizes.

Marloes Thank you letter

When they sent off the socks and mufflers they must have written a letter to go with them, so the sailors knew where they had come from. Here is a reply.

Read through the letter, note the importance of not just the knitting but also the 'kind thoughts', this was keeping up morale.

Empire Day

Empire Day was the anniversary of Queen Victoria's Birthday 26th May.

Ask the Children Do you have prize giving days?

All the children are in their best clothes, snow white pinafores and polished shoes, there are speeches from the grown-ups, from the local vicar and the local squire.

Best of all the children get a half day holiday!

School Children in The Great War

Messages and Mufflers

Activity – Writing letters

Each person writes two letters.

One letter from home to accompany the socks or muffler (scarf).

One letter from the sailor or soldier who has received the socks or muffler.

Write each letter out in pencil, in rough first and then copy it out in your **best handwriting**.

Letter from home.

Imagine that you have spent many weeks knitting the socks you are about to send out to the servicemen. Now you are giving them away to someone who really needs them. Write a letter to go with the socks.

What are you going to say?

Include:

Who you are?

How old you are?

What the area is like where you live (town or country)?

What the weather is like?

What school you go to?

What is your best thing at school?

Best wishes.

Hope to bring comfort.

Sign it.

Thank you letter from the serviceman

Imagine you are a serviceman who has just received the socks or muffler.

Maybe you were in great need of just such a thing to keep you warm.

Write a thank you letter to the child who has made your gift.

Include:

Who you are?

The name of your ship or regiment.

Who the letter is to?

What the weather is doing where you are.

Some words that show you are using the gift.

Thanks to the person who made the gift.

Good wishes.

Hope to bring comfort.

Be encouraging.

Sign it.

South Gloucestershire in the First World War Learning Resource

Other Free Learning Resources available are:

The Great War - Life in the Trenches - The Alf Flux Kit Bag (Plus a Loans Box)*

School Children in the Great War – Messages and Mufflers

The Girls who made Grenades – The Warmley Grenadiers

Empire Foods - The War at Sea - (Loans Box)*

The Amy Hill Autograph Book - Cleve Hill Hospital

The Amy Hill Autograph Book - Wounded on the Somme

The Hill and the Flux Family

Home Life during the First World War

The Armistice Day Investigation Quiz

* Booking is essential for the loans boxes by emailing: museums@southglos.gov.uk

For more information about this project please go to:

www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1

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South Gloucestershire in the First World War Project

Learning Resources Feedback Form

To mark the centenary of the First World War 1914-1918 these learning resources have been created to assist teachers in show the impact of the First World War in this area and also how communities were changed.

Please tell us what you think of these resources or if you have any comments or further information about the First World War in this area do let us know by filling in this form.

Please return to: museums@southglos.gov.uk

Name of School -----

-----Date -----

Did you find the resources easy to use? Yes/No

How do you think the resources worked with your class?

Other Comments-----

Thank you for your participation

This is an HLF project supported by South Gloucestershire Council. For more information and more free learning resources on The First World War in this area please go to:
www.southglos.gov.uk/ww1

